

LANSING FIRE DEPARTMENT

2014 Annual Report

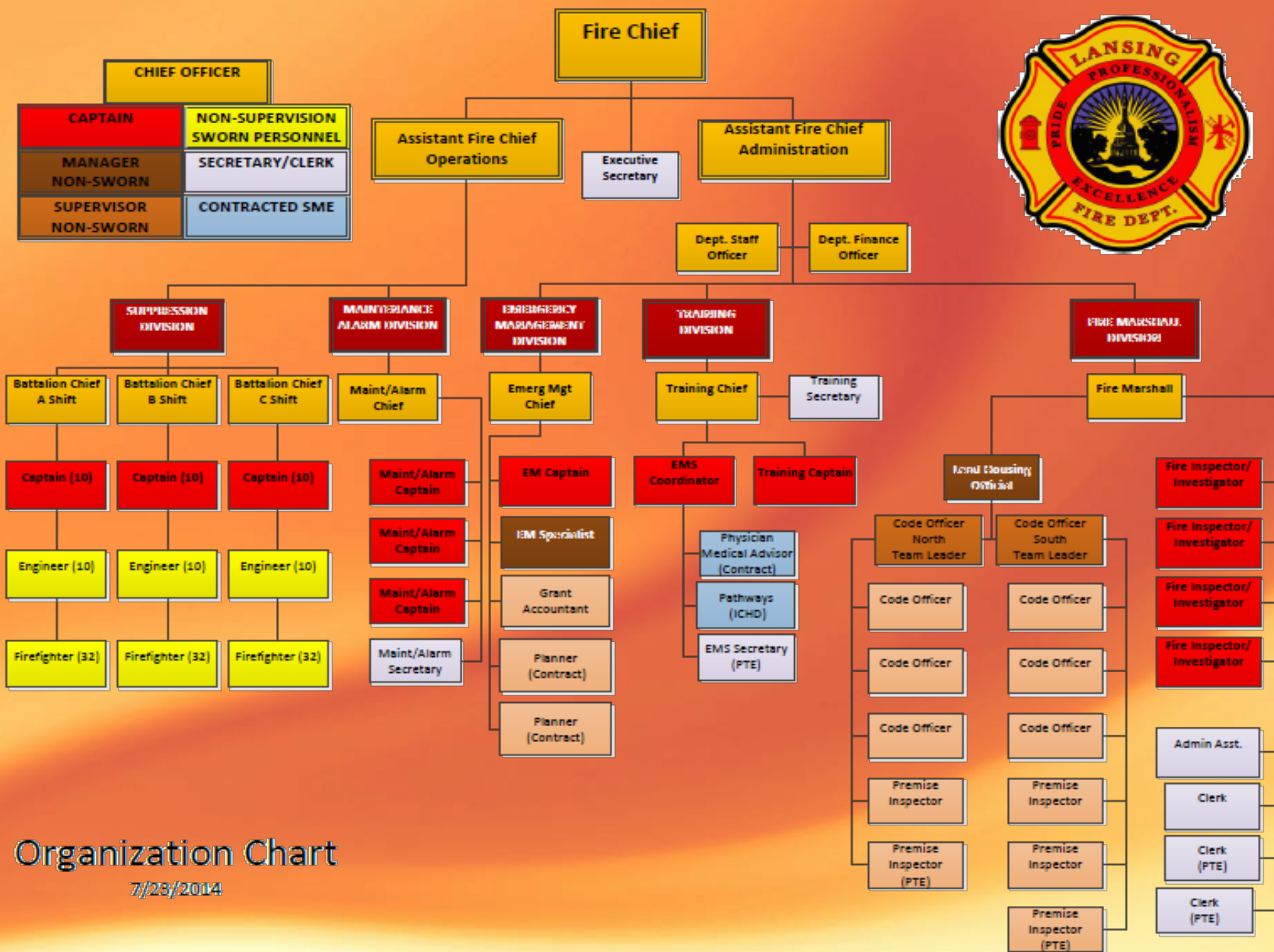


OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"The Lansing Fire Department is committed to serving the Lansing area community with the highest levels of life and property protection. Lansing Fire will achieve this by providing excellent compassionate service in an atmosphere that encourages innovation, professional development and diversity."

As a result of this mission, the Lansing Fire Department has developed into a multi-faceted agency responsible for providing a wide range of emergency and non-emergency services. The Lansing Fire Department's six divisions constantly strive to fulfill our mission statement.





Organization Chart

7/23/2014

Fire Administration



ASSISTANT CHIEF
Mike Hamel



FIRE CHIEF
Randy Talifarro



ASSISTANT CHIEF
Marc Tyler

The Administrative Division is responsible for the overall management of the department and the coordination of our efforts based on direction from the Mayor, City Council and Fire Board.

Administration constantly strives to efficiently manage the efforts of our divisions to insure we are delivering service consistent with our mission statement.



Chief Financial Officer
Ellen Vogt



Department Staff Officer
Bruce Odom



Administrative Specialist
Patti Starnes

A Note from the Chief

The Lansing Fire Department has a long history of providing a high level of fire and rescue services to the community. Our men and women are highly trained and professional individuals that place their lives on the line every day to keep Lansing safe. It is my goal as the Fire Chief to continue to work closely with our community to identify risk and mitigate those potential hazards that impact life and property while tasking our firefighters to rise and meet new challenges.

*Randy Talifarro,
Fire Chief*



LFD Administrative Accomplishments for 2014

- 🔥 Hired a diverse class of 25 FF/EMT trainees
- 🔥 Reorganized administration and restored skilled positions in Fire Prevention, Maintenance and Training and added to management diversity
- 🔥 Purchased 4 new fire engines & 2 new ambulance units replacing aging apparatus
- 🔥 Purchased 1 new Battalion Chief vehicle, a suburban
- 🔥 Installed Mobile Data Computers on all emergency response vehicles
- 🔥 Updated Emergency Medical Billing software and systems resulting in a nearly 10% increase in EMS revenue
- 🔥 Implemented LFD Learning Management Software System
- 🔥 Awarded over \$1 million in regional grants for supervisory and active violence training and equipment with our partners in the shared fire service group
- 🔥 Negotiated a tough, but fair, labor agreement that switched to a new, more efficient, and accountable work schedule increasing Firefighters on duty while maintaining current staffing levels, which will begin reducing legacy costs (for pension & retiree healthcare)



WELCOME



MARTIN ANDERSON



ROBERT CASLER



MARLO CHRISTIAN



JACOB EPLING



ADAM GAUKEL



JASON GRAY



BRAIDEN HURT



MATT KOCH



RYAN LAI



MICHAEL LYNN



MICHAEL MAGGIO



MARCEL MILLER



RAHHEMEER NEAL



SHAWN NORRIS



LINA NOWLAND



ARMANDO RIOS



FRANK RUSSO



DOMINIQUE SCOTT



AUSTIN SIMMONS



MITCHEL STADEL



COLIN SUDDS



JAMES VIDETO



CAMERON WALKER



KELVIN WILLIAMS

2014 NEW RECRUITS

Chaplin Services

It is an honor for me to serve as chaplain for LFD. The men and women of the Lansing Fire Department face challenges unique to a first responder. As chaplain I support the men and women of the department and their well-being by being a resource and a listener.

In 2014 the men and women of the Lansing Fire Department faced many challenging and difficult situations. As with any year there were those incidents that pushed the members of LFD to their limits. And as with any year there were those "runs" that because of what was done by those who responded, lives were saved. Also in 2014 there was much change that those in the department handled with professionalism and grace.

In this last year the members of the department also shared in many joys. Having a chance to officiate at a wedding of a department member I saw the "family" value of LFD. Men and women sharing the best times in each others' lives deepening the bond between them.

At LFD we continue to work to create an environment where help is provided for those who respond to a crisis. We will continue to do this by caring for those who experience the affects of being a first responder, making sure that they are listened to and provided help. From the most experienced, to the rookie, each member of LFD is willing to lay it all on the line for someone else. To support them in any way is my privilege and prayer.



Chaplain
Doug Bradshaw



Emergency Management Division



**Division Chief
Michael Tobin**



**EM Specialist
Ronda Oberlin**



**Regional Planner
Barb Hamilton**



**Regional Planner
Erika Mahoney**



**Fiscal Agent for Region One
Homeland Security
Alan Beland**



**Regional Planner
David Harper**

PREPAREDNESS DEPENDS ON YOU

The City of Lansing Office of Emergency Management is directed by Division Chief Michael Tobin. Assisting Chief Tobin is Ronda Oberlin our Emergency Management Specialist.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Emergency Management Division

The Lansing Office of Emergency Management, a Division of the Lansing Fire Department, is responsible for the Homeland Security of the City of Lansing. Emergency Management's proactive approach to an all hazard event, natural, man-made or terrorism in nature, requires the Office of Emergency Management to prepare our community and its first responder agencies through plan development, training and exercising. Emergency Management's preparedness initiatives with our community partnerships have made Lansing's Office of Emergency Management leaders throughout the State of Michigan in preparedness.

Our Vision - "Building a Disaster Resilient Community"

Emergency Management Division

2014 Accomplishments

Lansing nonprofit to be honored by White House

Associated Press 9:39 p.m. EDT September 8, 2014

Erika Mahoney is with Do 1 Thing

LANSING – The executive director of a Lansing nonprofit that works to help people prepare for disasters is being honored this week at a White House event.

Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Craig Fugate is expected to be among the officials on Tuesday honoring Erika Mahoney during the "Champions of Change" event.

Mahoney is with Do 1 Thing, which also helps businesses and communities prepare.

In a statement, the White House says Mahoney is among those "doing extraordinary work to prepare individuals and communities for disasters and to help build a safer and more resilient nation."

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Erika Mahoney



2014 Accomplishments

- Floodplain Acquisition Project
 - Purchased four homes (total project up to 30 homes purchased)
 - Awarded \$330,000 Grant to purchase seven more
- Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
- City wide Table Top Exercises for various emergencies
- Damage Assessment Update Training
- Flood readiness and sand bag training to the Lansing Metro Area
- Tornado Walkthrough's and training (schools, Businesses, apartments)
- Expanded Cool Thing To Do to include Warming Centers
- Continued to Expand Social Media Usage for Emergency Management

Emergency Management Division

Events/Activations

- Governors State of the State (January 14)
- Marathon (May 4)
- Forth of July Celebration
- Common Ground (July 8 – 14)
- Hardwell Concert (April 12)
- Open House (October 11)
- Silver Bells (November 21)
- No Senior without a Christmas (December 11)
- One Level 3 Activation
 - Lansing Snow Storm (January 5)
- Two level 1 Activations
 - Spring Flood Monitoring and Preparation (Feb.-Apr.)
 - Brenke Fish Ladder Spill (June 26)
- CERT Volunteers Activated for Two Missing Persons Search

Emergency Management Division

Volunteers

- Specialized Search and Rescue for Missing Persons training
 - 12 volunteers attend this intense 3 day class
- 17 CERT continuing Education classes
 - CERT Program provided more than 5000 volunteer hours at trainings and special events including the Lansing Marathon, Common Ground, Old Town Jazz Festival, Fourth of July Fireworks, Ingham County Health Department's Recycle-Rama, Capital Bike Race, Arbor Day, Safety Picnic, MSU home football games, Hardwell Concert, and Silver Bells in the City. In Total, CERT Volunteers provided more than \$100,000 in volunteer time to the City.



Emergency Management Division

Grants

- ❖ 2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (\$10,000)
- ❖ 2011 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (289,559)
- ❖ 2012 Safer Act Grant (\$2,279,256)
- ❖ 2011 Homeland security Grant (\$1,200,000)
- ❖ 2012 Homeland Security Grant (\$750,000)
- ❖ 2013 Homeland Security Grant (\$800,000)

Emergency Management Division



Do 1 Thing Accomplishments

- Erika Mahoney built a team and visited the CDC as part of the National Academy of Public Health Leadership building up Community Ambassadors, who can give presentations on behalf of Do 1 Thing.
- Partnered with the MSP Community Service Troopers to disseminate Do 1 Thing Statewide
- Received a grant in conjunction with the Mid-Michigan Disability Rights Coalition to involve those with disabilities and barriers in Emergency Planning from the Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Agency. Project Name: Leadership Disaster Resiliency and Prevention for People with Disabilities Project. The Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC) is working with www.do1thing.us on a disaster preparedness project to help Tri-County individuals with disabilities.
- Do 1 Thing assisted with the MSP- Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division on “Prepare Fair” 2014 in Detroit.
- Do 1 Thing spoke and had booths at various conferences including; The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO in Atlanta, The Michigan Homeland Security Conference, The Michigan Emergency Management Association(MEMA), The Lansing Safety Council, Michigan Citizens Corps, and many other local and state events.

Emergency Management Division

Do 1 Thing Accomplishments

- Do 1 Thing won the 2014 FEMA Individual and Community Awards in the Awareness to Action Award.
- Do 1 Thing also received an honorable mention in the 2014 FEMA Individual and Community Awards in the category of Whole Community Emergency Preparedness.
- In October 2014 Erika Mahoney won the Michigan Emergency Management Associations (MEMA) Distinguished Service Award for going above and beyond in her work on Do 1 Thing.



Lansing Fire Department



Steve Babcock



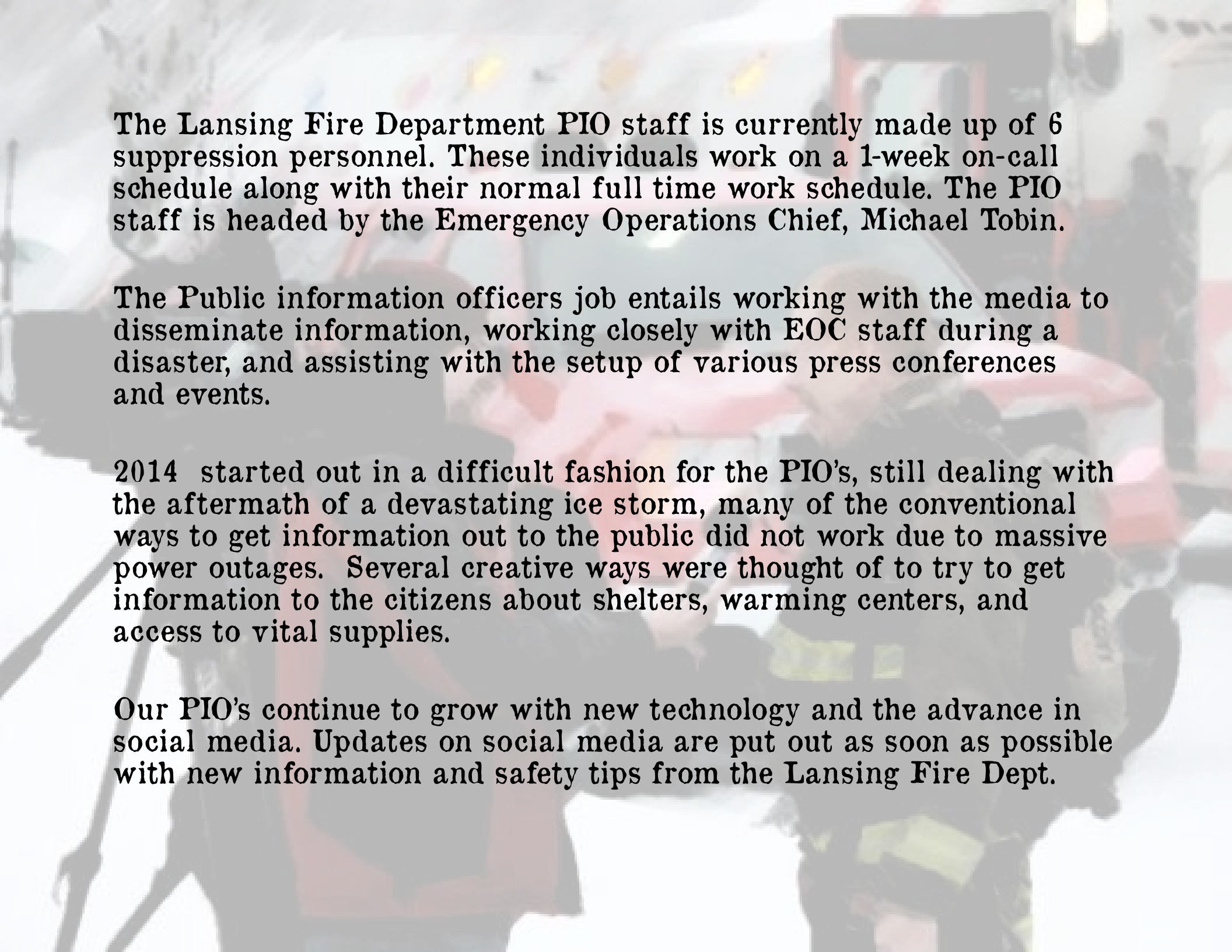
Charlie Stadt



Steve Mazurek



Eric Weber



The Lansing Fire Department PIO staff is currently made up of 6 suppression personnel. These individuals work on a 1-week on-call schedule along with their normal full time work schedule. The PIO staff is headed by the Emergency Operations Chief, Michael Tobin.

The Public information officers job entails working with the media to disseminate information, working closely with EOC staff during a disaster, and assisting with the setup of various press conferences and events.

2014 started out in a difficult fashion for the PIO's, still dealing with the aftermath of a devastating ice storm, many of the conventional ways to get information out to the public did not work due to massive power outages. Several creative ways were thought of to try to get information to the citizens about shelters, warming centers, and access to vital supplies.

Our PIO's continue to grow with new technology and the advance in social media. Updates on social media are put out as soon as possible with new information and safety tips from the Lansing Fire Dept.

Lansing Fire Prevention Division



Fire Marshal
Marshaun Blake



Inspector
Sheila Platner



Inspector
Anthony Phillips



Inspector
Mauricio Barrera



Secretary
Jennifer Hovey



Mission Statement

The Fire Marshal's Office mission is to provide fire and life safety services through preplanning, education, inspections, code enforcement, plan review, permitting and Fire/Arson investigations.

Fire/Life Safety Prevention is the key to saving lives and property. Fire Prevention through education and code enforcement is this Fire Department's commitment to protecting the lives and property of our citizens, guests and neighboring communities. Fire Prevention is the true "first responder".

The Fire Marshal's Office is divided into two sections, Fire Inspector/Investigators and Code Enforcement Officers.

- ❖ Fire Inspector/Investigators main focus is on commercial property, public education, the International Fire Code, and fire/arson investigation.
- ❖ Code Enforcement officers main focus is on residential/rental housing, safe and clean premise, zoning issues. This is done through the adoption of the International Property and Maintenance, and City of Lansing's Zoning Ordinances.

Both groups main focus is the safety and protection of all of Lansing's citizens, businesses, guests, and property.

A Note from the Fire Marshal

In 2014 the Fire Marshal's office helped organize the largest fire prevention event in the history of the department. The event was held at the Eastwood Towne Center, with the participation of other regional departments: Lansing Township, East Lansing, Delhi and Delta Township. There was an estimated 750 plus people who showed up to enjoy the event, which was a huge success.

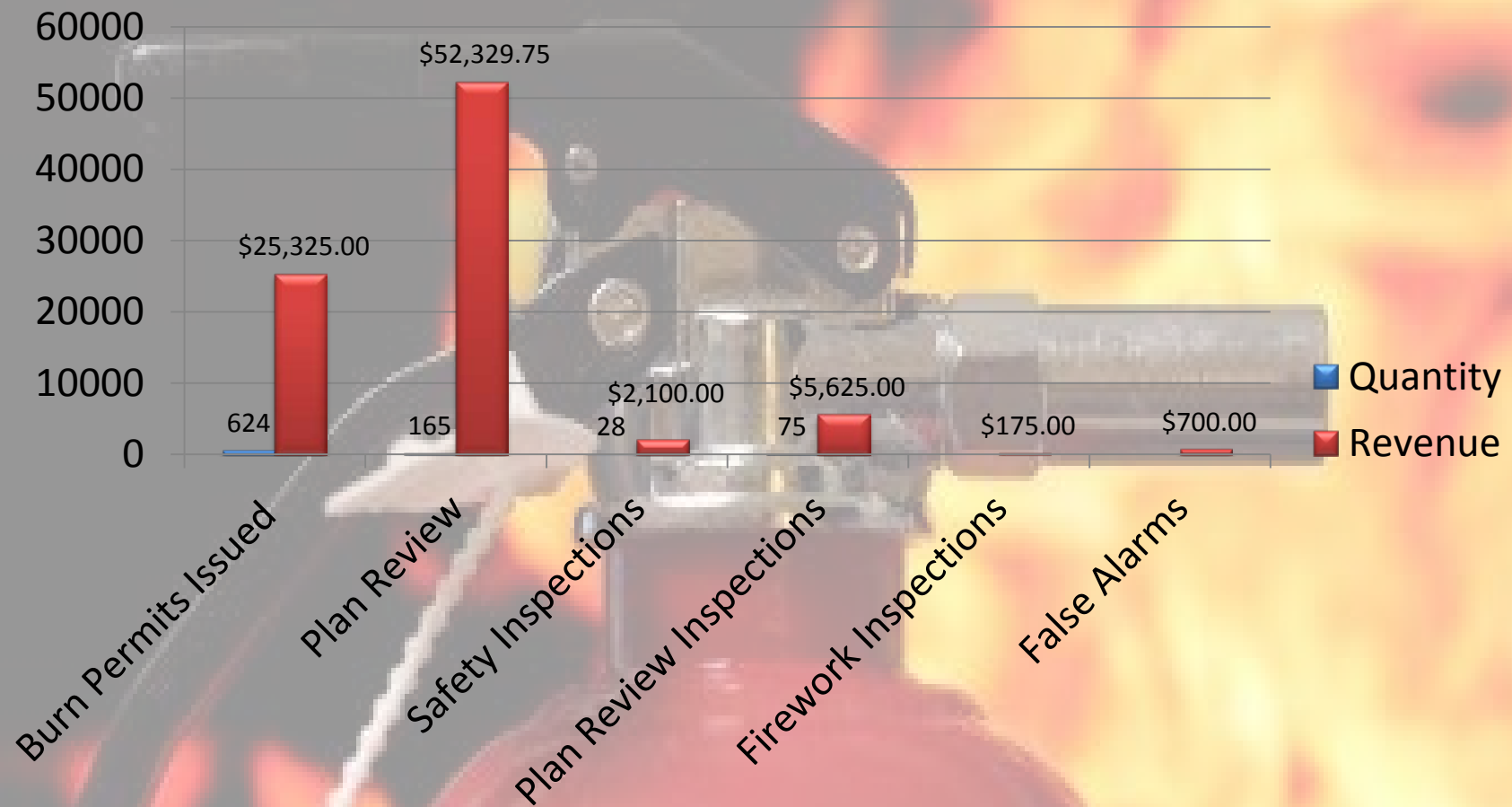
The total revenue that was collected in 2014 from Fire and Life Safety inspections, Plan Review, Plan Review Inspections, Firework inspections, False Alarm Fees and Burn Permit fees were \$86,254.75.

In July of 2014 the Fire Marshal's Office relocated their offices to 316 N. Capital, Suite C-1 to join forces with our new staff members of Code Enforcement.

Sincerely,

*Bradley Drury,
Fire Marshal*

Fire Prevention Stats



CODE ENFORCEMENT



Lead Housing Manager
Scott Sanford

Housing Inspectors:



Cameron Priest



Dave Vincent



Gregg Scrimger



Larry Connelly



Mike Morrison



Vince Cantrell



Walter Allen

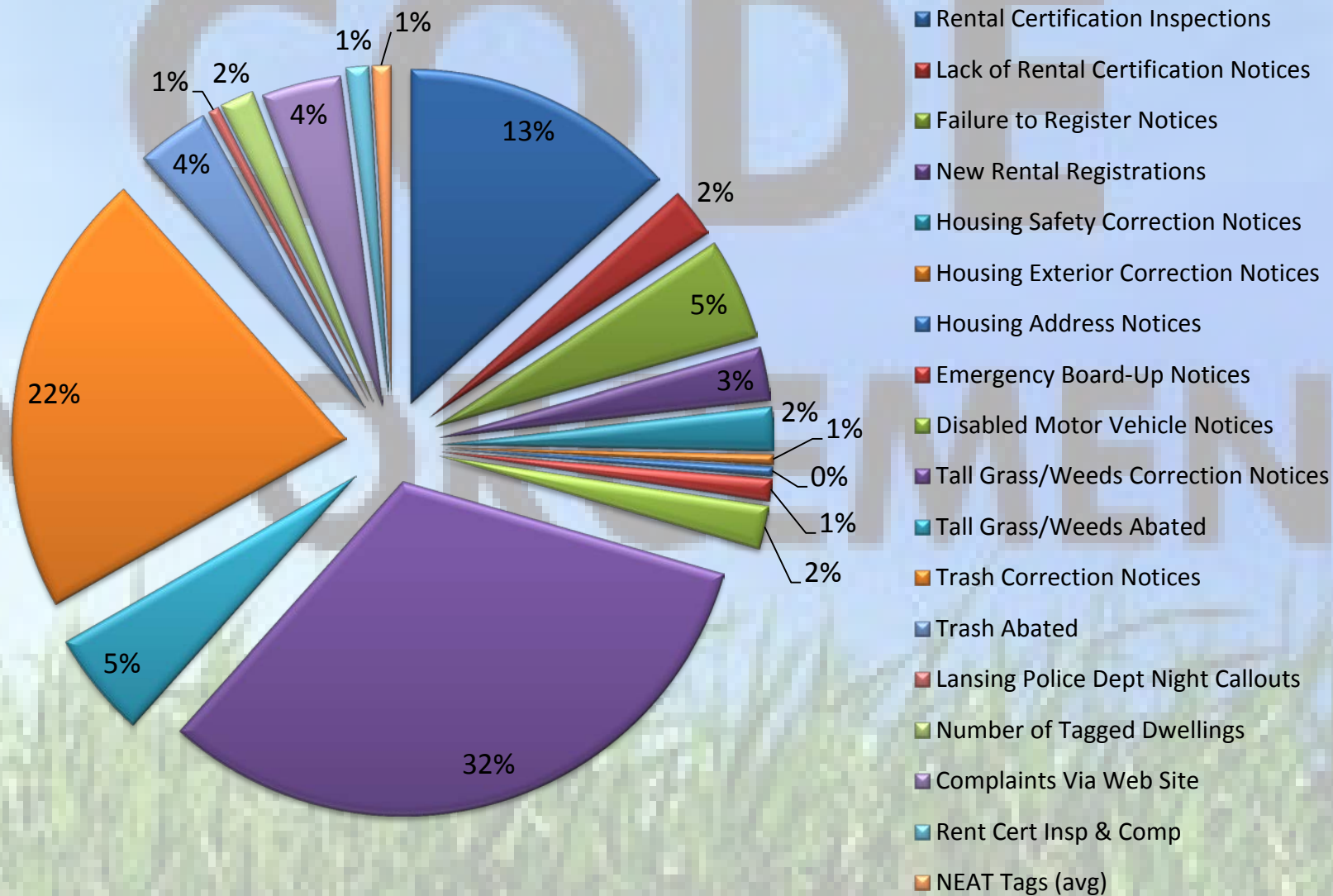


Amy Castillo



Administrative Assistant
Lynne Puente

Code Enforcement Stats



A NOTE FROM THE LEAD HOUSING MANAGER

Number of Rental Inspections from January to December 2013 was 4,397, between January and December 2014 there were 3,625 completed, this is an 18% decrease in the number of inspections being done.

We are showing a decrease in the average number of NEAT Team houses for 2014. We averaged 253 NEAT Team houses per month in calendar year 2013 and only 234 NEAT Team houses per month in calendar year 2014. While this is only an 8% decrease in long term tagged properties, it does show that this program is working and helping the City avoid the long term tagged houses that have plagued us in the past.

In calendar year 2013 our office wrote 15,845 Enforcement notices, in calendar year 2014 we wrote a total of 12,992 Enforcement notices, this is a 19% decrease in the number of letters written. However our submittals were down 10% from the previous year, this again shows that the actions taken by this office are causing home owners to take more responsibility for their property and not rely on the City to maintain their properties for them. On another positive note our online complaints have had a 46% decrease from 1,511 in 2013 to 969 in calendar year 2014. This again shows that our office is making a significant positive change in our neighborhoods.

The total number of letters written by this office in calendar year 2013 was 21,792, in calendar year 2014 we have written 20,598.

Respectfully,

Scott Sanford
Lead Housing Manager
Lansing Fire Marshal's Office

WHAT IS NEAT

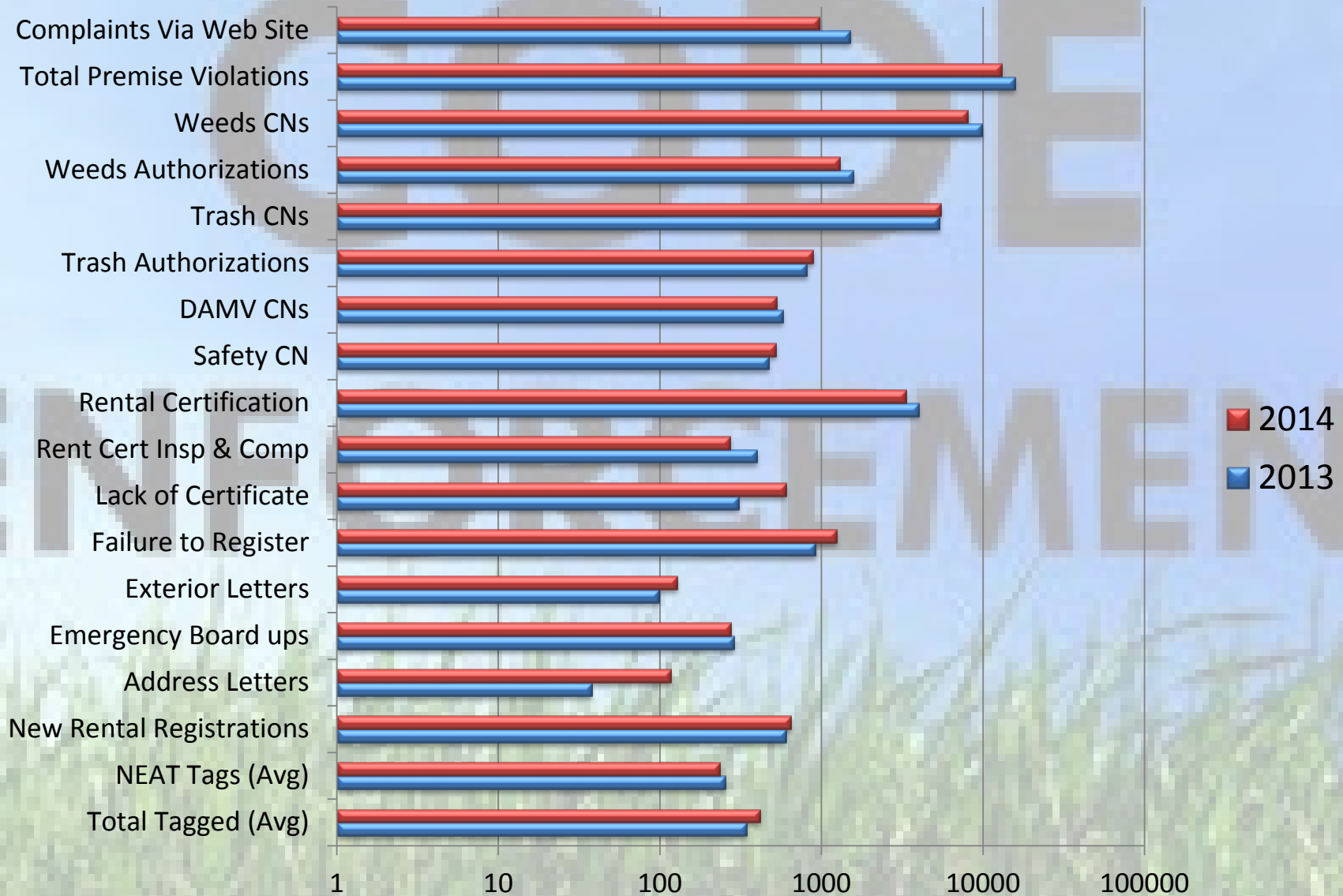
Beginning at the start of the 2007 fiscal year, the Neighborhood Enhancement Action Team (N.E.A.T. Team) was launched. Existing personnel were reassigned and began the process of monitoring unsafe and substandard (tagged) properties. Additional personnel were hired in March of 2007. Significant enhancements were undertaken to our existing database in order to allow for the tracking of tagged property activity and allow us to charge a \$150.00 per month monitoring fee. This fee is an assessment against the real property. It does not matter who owns it or if it is sold. The fee is assessed against the property until they start working on it, it is untagged or demolished. And this fee, if unpaid goes directly onto the properties tax bill.

The program allows any property that has been tagged for more than 90 days to be placed in the NEAT Team. These properties are monitored on a monthly basis to make sure that the grass is being cut, the building is secure and that trash is not being dumped on the property. Any red tagged property that is not being worked on to bring it into compliance is assessed a \$150.00 monthly monitoring fee. This fee can be suspended if the owner of the property contacts us and keeps us up to date on the progress they are making to bring the property back to a habitable state.

We started working with the Ingham County Land Bank on some of the properties that were going back or were due to go back to the County for Tax Foreclosure and that helped a lot, as we weren't expending City tax dollars to take down unsafe houses. The Land Bank uses CDBG funds to demo unsafe properties and then builds new homes on the now vacant lots. We turn over about 100 to 150 tagged properties to the Land Bank every year.

All in all this has been a great program for the City, we have gone from 700 plus tagged houses down to 372 total tagged properties of which 222 were NEAT Team houses. Our oldest tagged properties have been tagged for less than 6 years. We have recently made some changes to the program by reassigning the NEAT Team houses to the Code Enforcement Officers for a more hands on approach with the owners. We are still going forward with the Demolition process in the City but it is a labor intensive and time consuming process. And this is as it should be; as there is no more invasive legal procedure you can do to an individual than to demolish someone's house.

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMPARISONS JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2013 & 2014





MAINTENANCE & ALARM



Maintenance & Alarm Chief
Bill Oberst



Captain
Jwan Randle



Captain
Arnie Rios



Captain
Mark Morrall



Secretary
Linette Silvernail





MAINTENANCE & ALARM

THE MAINTENANCE AND ALARM DIVISION SERVES AS THE LANSING FIRE DEPARTMENTS QUARTERMASTER FOR UNIFORMS PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND GEAR AS WELL AS MEDICAL AND STATION SUPPLIES

THE MAINTENANCE AND ALARM DIVISION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SERVICING THE MAINTENANCE NEEDS OF THE LANSING FIRE DEPARTMENT'S STATIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CITY'S FACILITIES MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT



MAINTENANCE & ALARM

Critical Duties of Maintenance & Alarm Division:

- Maintain & repair equipment and personal protective gear.
- Maintain the departments work order system
- Issues EMS and Station supplies
- Yearly functional testing of hose, ladders and SCBA's (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus)







Additional Duties of Maintenance & Alarm:

- Responds to structure fires for logistical support (air, food, water, and all other needs of the crews)
- Snow plowing for all Fire Department locations
- Works with City of Lansing Building Maintenance Division to maintain network infrastructure, access control system, and the Fire Department building structures.



MAINTENANCE & ALARM

- Accomplishments for 2014

-  Tested all of the of fire departments hose based on NFPA recommendations
-  Tested all of the fire departments ground ladders based on NFPA recommendations
-  Addressed 1678 work requests for equipment, personal protective equipment, building repairs, etc. Some requests required interaction with the City's Facilities Management Department.
-  Functional tested all the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA's) owned by both the Fire & Police departments to the manufactures specifications.
-  Instrumental in the remodeling of Code Enforcements office to facilitate the addition of the Fire Marshal's staff.
-  Instrumental in the remodeling of the Emergency Managements Division



MAINTENANCE & ALARM

Additional Information:

In July 2014, Maintenance & Alarm was able to add an additional position to help with the needs of our division. We welcomed Engineer Mark Morrall to our crew.

LANSING FIRE DEPARTMENT



Suppression



LANSING FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Stations



Station 41 Engine, 1 Ladder Truck, 1 Battalion Command vehicle, 2 Medic Units, Brush Truck with water rescue boat, 2 ATV vehicles. This station also houses the Operations office and Administration offices.

Station 42 – 1 Engine, this engine is one of three that carry the “jaws of life” extrication equipment and water rescue equipment

Station 44 - 1 Engine, 1 ATV/Water Rescue, 1 CERT Trailer, 1 Mass Casualty Trailer, & 1 Ladder Truck. Engine 44 is one of three extrication engines carrying the “jaws of life”.



Station 46 – 1 Engine, 1 Medic Unit, 1 Hazmat Squad. The Hazmat Squad responds to all Hazmat incidents in the Metro Area.



Station 48 – 1 Engine, 1 Technical Rescue truck and trailer with equipment for Confined Space Rescue, Building Collapse Rescue, Trench Rescue and High Angle Rope Rescue.



Station 49 – 1 Engine, 1 Safety Vehicle, 1 Medic Unit,, 1 Brush Truck with Water Rescue Boat.

Suppression



Dan Kriegbaum



Don Hamilton



Steve Sherman

2014 BATTALION CHIEFS

Suppression

This year the Lansing Fire Department added Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's) to all the engines, ladder trucks, ambulances, and Battalion Chief vehicles. These new computers will eventually contain building floor plans, pre-incident fire plans, hydrant maps, and GPS tracking systems which will allow directions to various locations, as well as ensure the closest available rig responds to the call.

In 2014 we were also able to update our EMS software to help improve patient care. We now have the ability to transmit EKG data and patient reports to the hospital. This new software will also allow for better communication with area hospitals allowing almost instant access to patient care reports and other vital patient information from all across the region.

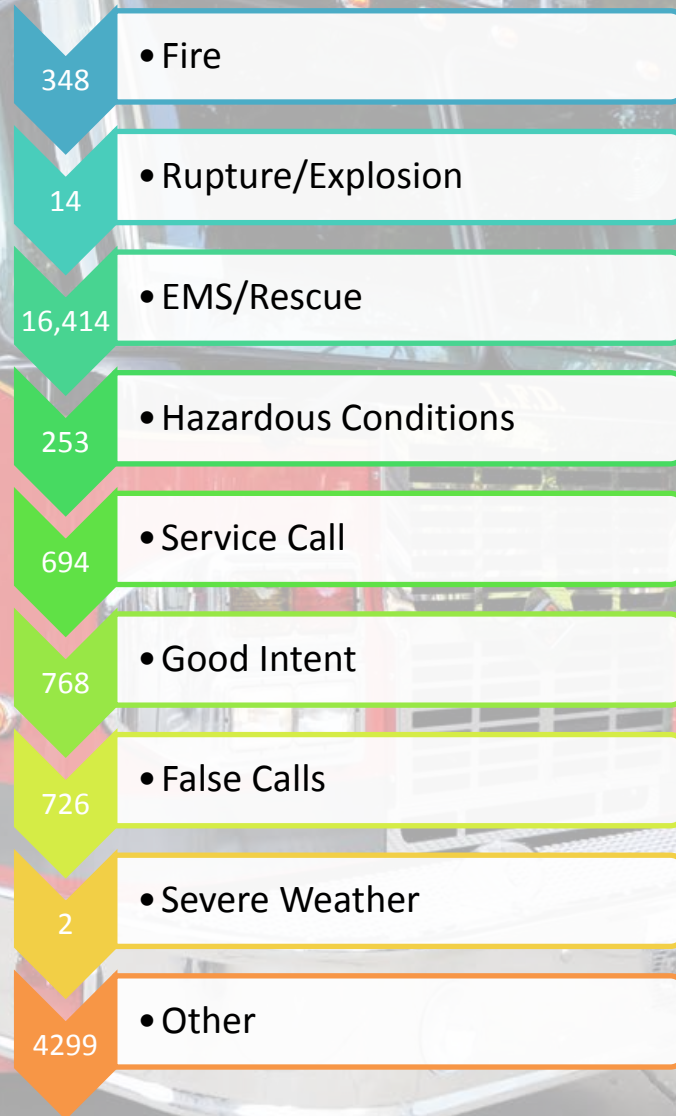
The Lansing Fire Department continues to grow and strive to be the best that it can be in serving the citizens of Lansing with pride, professionalism and excellence.



Suppression

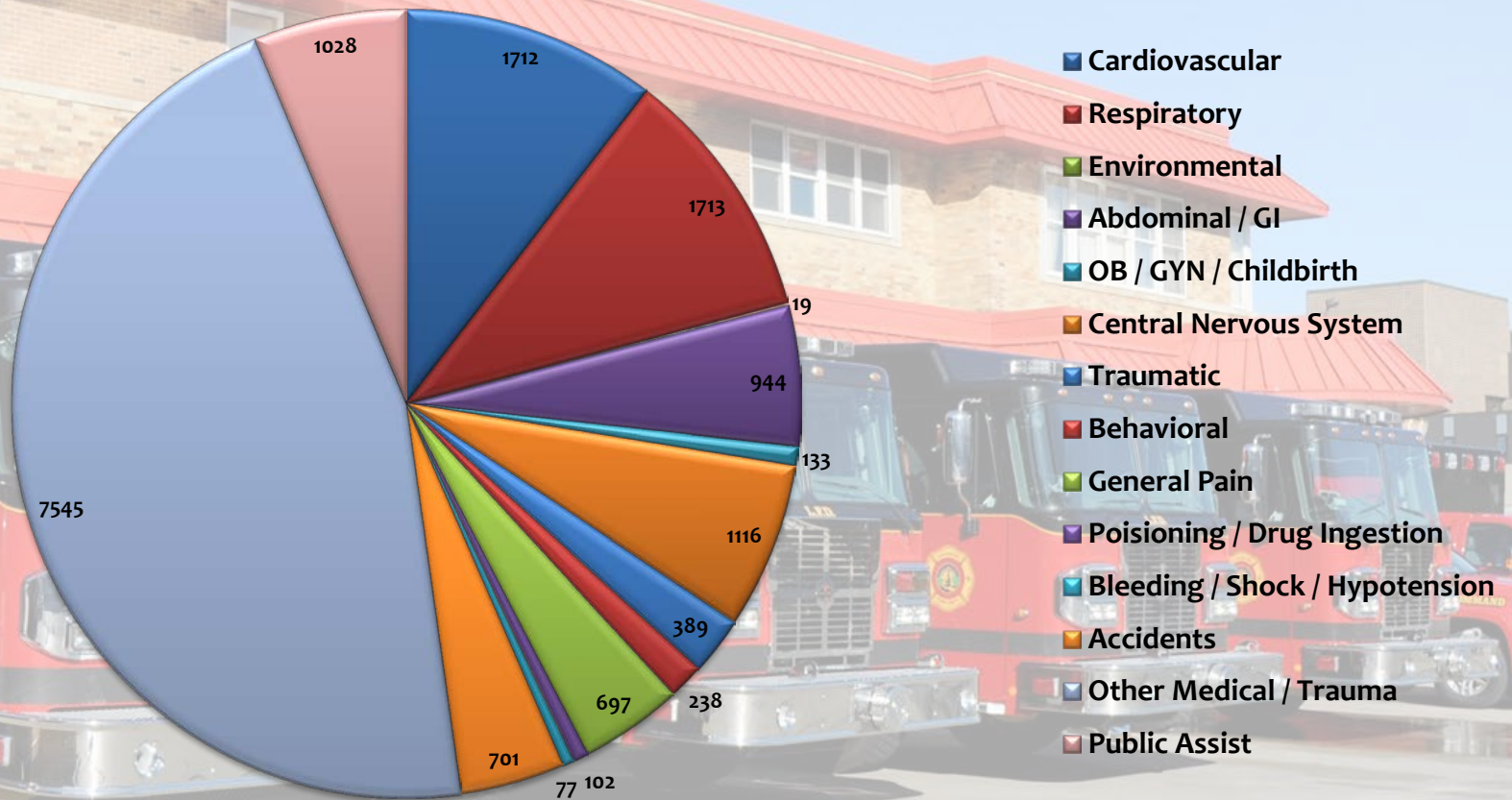
- The types of calls that the Fire Department responded to in 2014 are broken down into general categories with overall number of emergency responses. These categories are shown in chart form on the right.
- The Suppression Division is responsible for the emergency response activities of the department. This division responded to 19,541 incidents in 2014 and provided fire suppression, basic and advanced emergency medical transport services, and hazmat/technical rescue responses.
- Suppression also participated in a number of public education activities. In addition, the Suppression Division staff are constantly in a training cycle to maintain critical state certifications necessary for the Lansing Fire Department to maintain and improve service levels.

Types of Responses



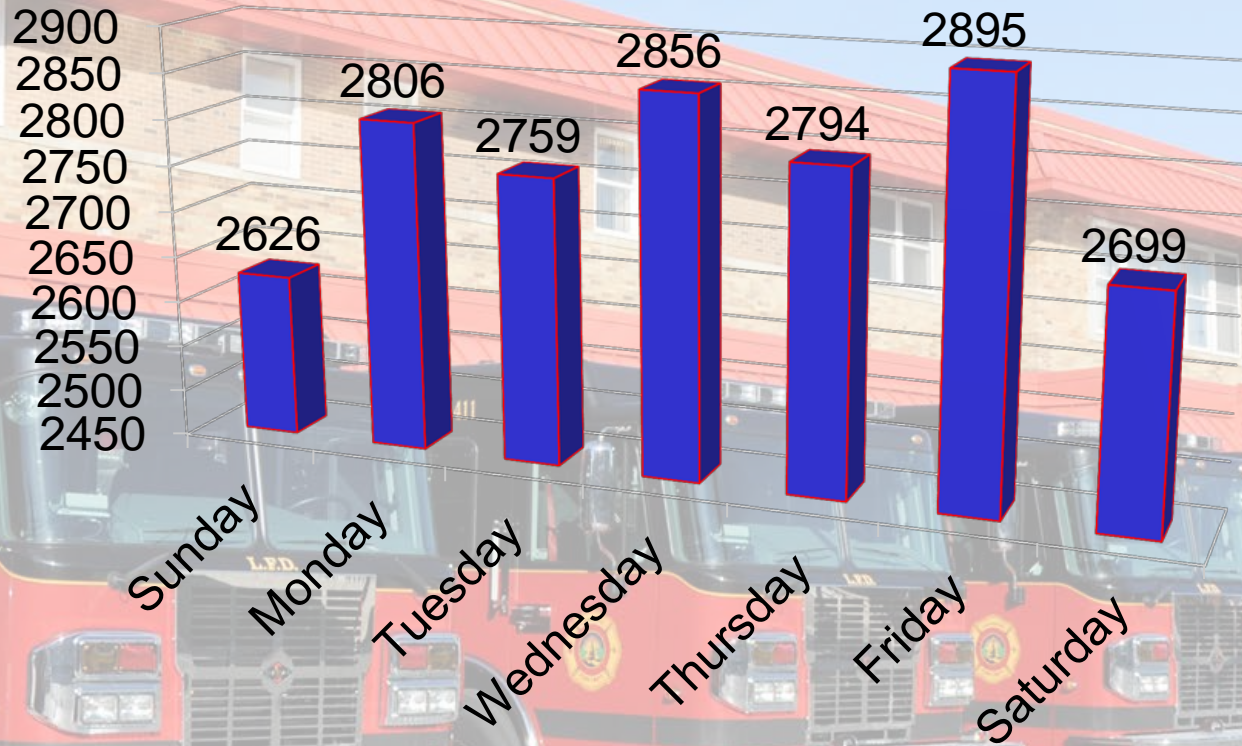
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Nature of EMS Calls



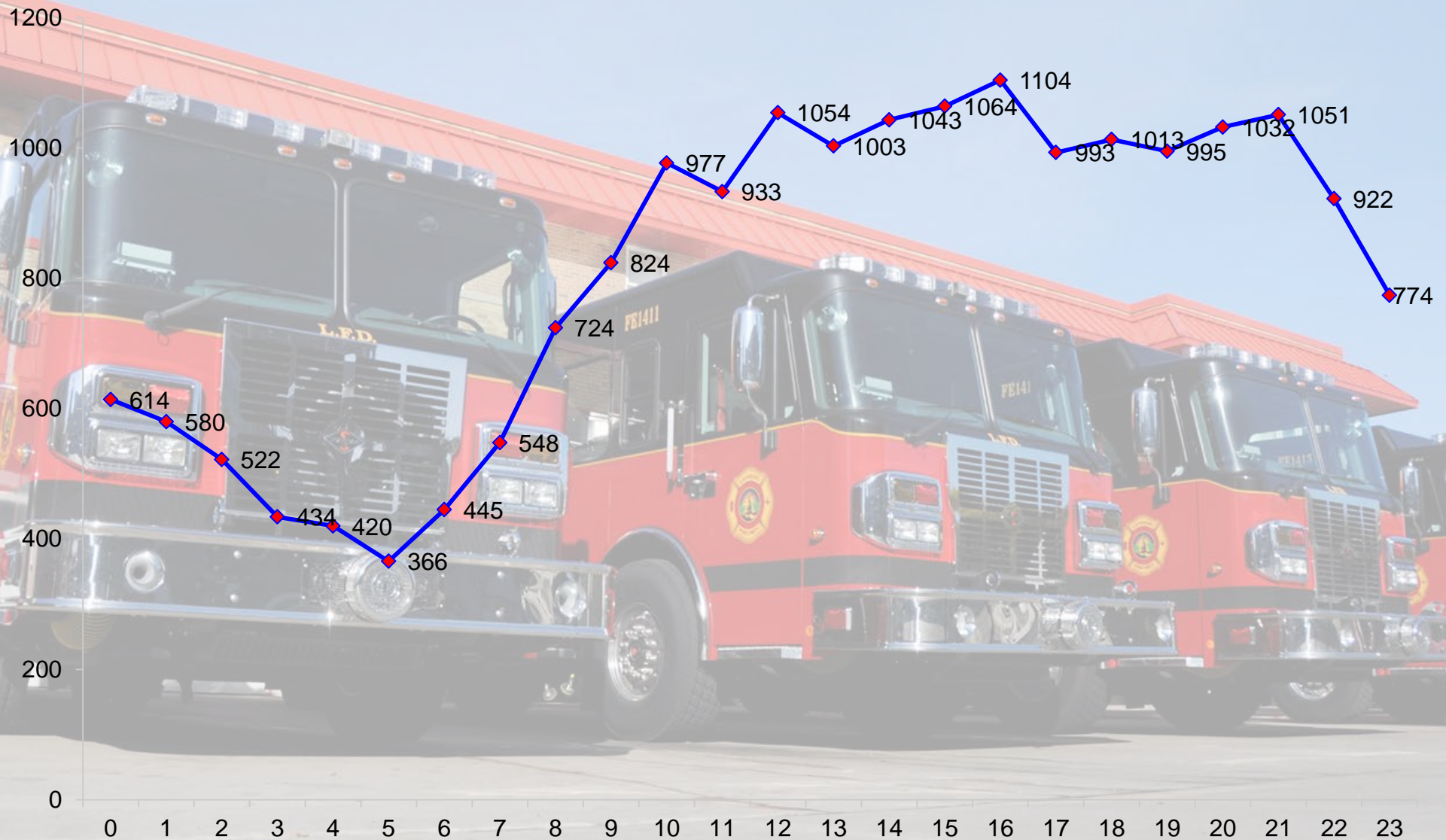
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Calls By Day of Week



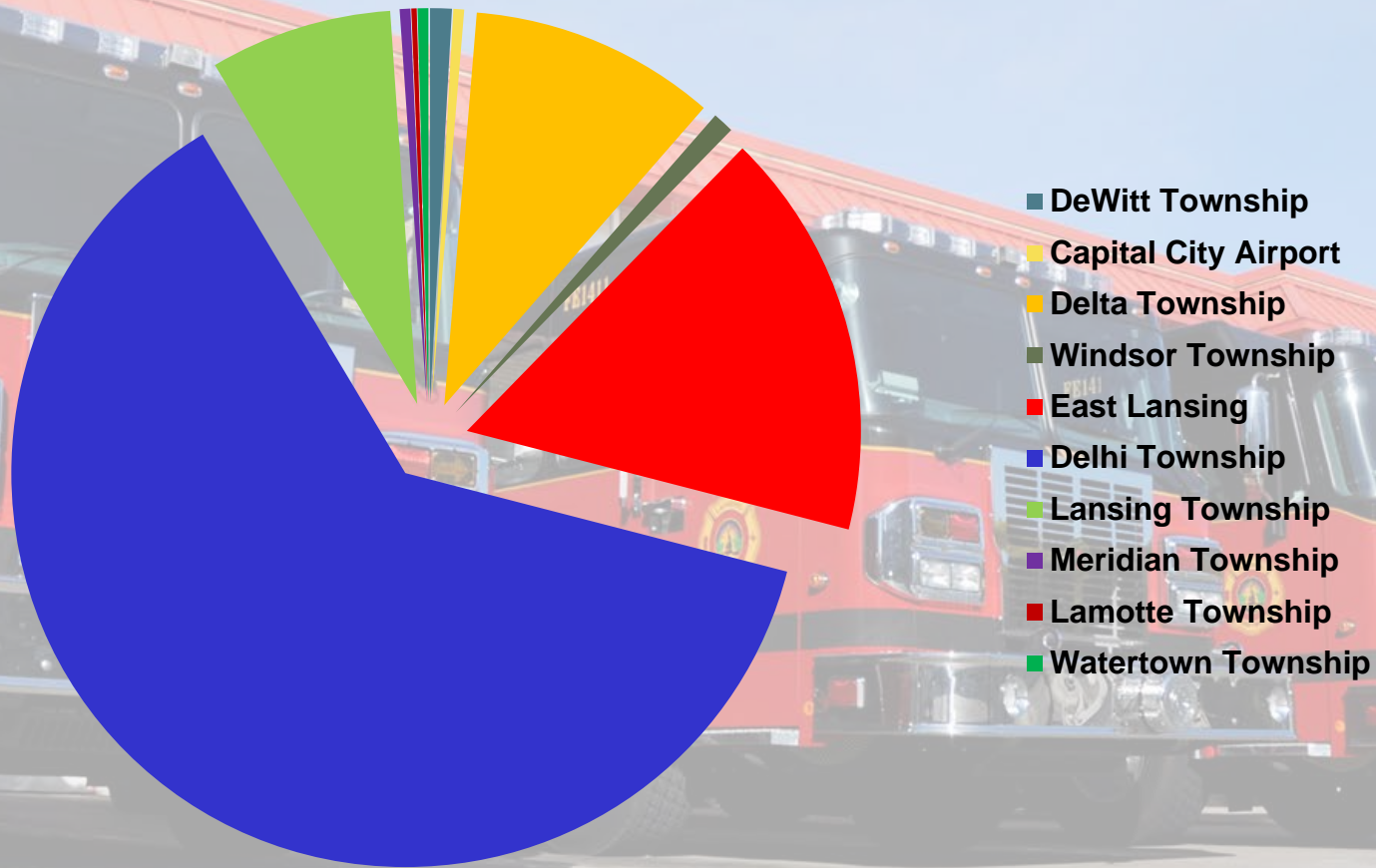
Suppression

Calls by Hours of Day



Suppression

Mutual Aid Responses





Training Division



**Training Captain
Teresa Robinson**



**Training Chief
Dan Oberst**



**Training Captain
Kevin Christiansen**



**EMS Secretary
Sherry Bent**



**Training Secretary
Michelle Greko**

The Division's operations are directed by the Chief of Training, Dan Oberst.

The Training Division is made up of Captain Teresa Robinson serving as the Department's Emergency Medical Services Coordinator and educator, Captain Kevin Christiansen serving as a multi-faceted trainer and educator, as well as Twenty -Two Adjunct Instructors. These men and women are working training professionals from across the Divisions and ranks of the Fire Department.

Administrative support is provided by Secretaries Michelle Greko and Sherry Bent.

In 2014 the Division was responsible for 3145 hours of training.

"Service with humility and wisdom"

Training Division



- The Training Division manages in-service, professional development, and compliance training to Fire Department personnel.
- Typical training activities for the Training Division are driver education and emergency medical services continuing education as well as firefighting, technical rescue, and hazardous materials update training.
- Cooperative training with other City Departments include the Human Resources and Police.
- Much of the Fire Departments Training is performed utilizing a collaborative partnership with other Metro-area and Ingham County Fire Departments.





Training Division



2014 Significant Accomplishments

- In a cooperative effort with LFD Fire Suppression Engineers, delivered an Aerial Apparatus Training Program
- Executed an Apparatus Driver's refresher and skills verification program
- Executed presentations for the fall 2014 Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association Training conference
- Delivered Delhi Automatic Mutual Aid integration training program
- Participated with the greater Lansing area Active Violent Incident Response development Steering Committee
- Transitioned to new electronic patient care reporting software for the Department's EMS services
- Delivered 512 hours of training to the 25 new recruits hired in September
- Collaborated with General Motors Corporation to facilitate refresher training for the Lansing Grand River and Delta Assembly Emergency Response Teams.
- Facilitated the delivery of High Voltage Recognition and Safety Training to LFD personnel by Consumers Energy
- Participated as contributors and members of the Joint Labor/Management Health and Safety Committee




Training Division



2014 Significant Accomplishments continued

- Assisted Ingham County in the delivery of Fire Officer Training
- Assisted Delta Fire Department in the delivery of Incident Command System 300 & 400 courses
- Assisted Delhi and Delta Fire Departments in the delivery of level 4 & 5 Incident Command Blue Card Training
- In August, the Training Division said Goodbye to Captain Monique Drury who after years of valuable service chose to pursue other endeavors.
- The Training Division welcomed 3 new members: Captain Teresa Robinson, Captain Kevin Christiansen, and Secretary Sherry Bent

The job of training the city's Fire, EMS and rescue personnel as well as those from other agencies is a challenging, ever changing and rewarding experience. Being the resource that the City's rescue professionals turn to for advice, assistance and counsel is a privilege beyond simple explanation. "Service, humility, and wisdom" are our core values.

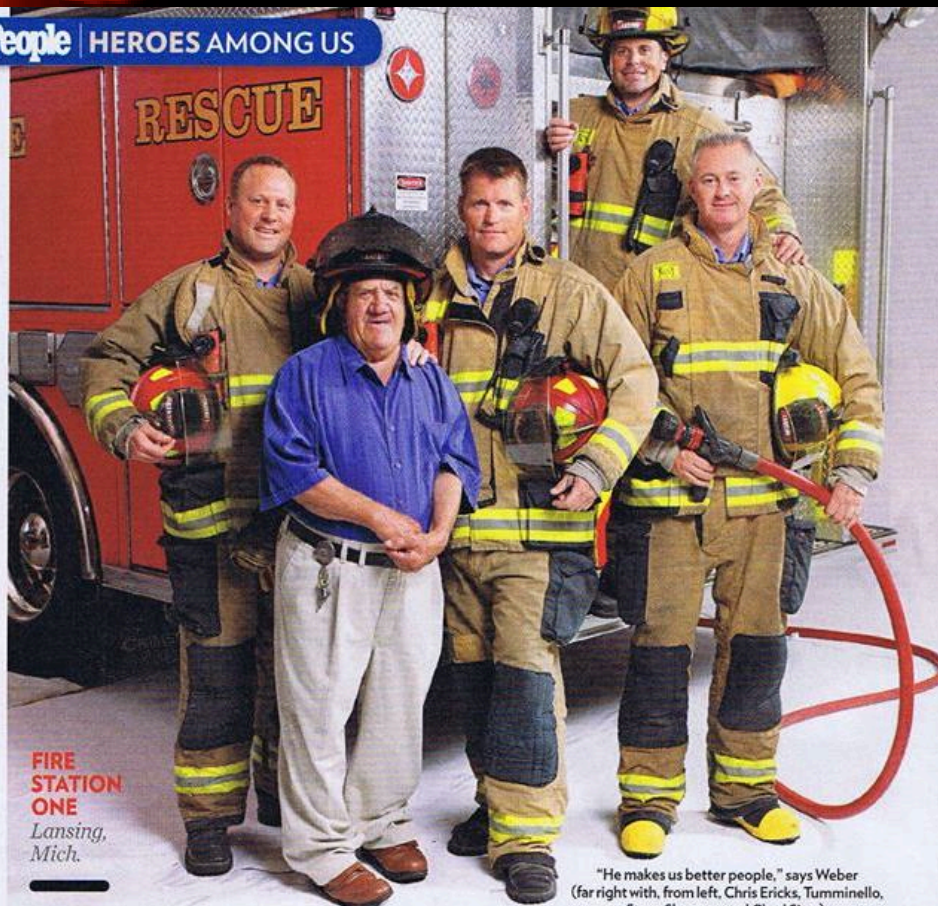


Lansing Fire Department

BREAKING NEWS

BREAKING NEWS

People | HEROES AMONG US



**FIRE
STATION
ONE**
Lansing,
Mich.

"He makes us better people," says Weber
(far right with, from left, Chris Ericks, Tumminello,
Steve Sherman and Chad Sims).

HIS FIREHOUSE FAMILY

FASCINATED BY FIRE ENGINES since he first visited the neighborhood station at 13, Tony Tumminello, now 73, a mentally challenged part-time flower-shop sweeper, has spent every day there for the past 60 years. Unofficially adopting their sweet-natured fan, firehouse old-timers and new guys help him shower and shave, drive him to doctors' appointments and include him in everything from

station pranks to holiday dinners. **LT. DOUG BURKE, 44:** When I came to the station 18 years ago, I was introduced to Tony first thing. They said, "This is Tony, and he's part of our fire department family." We cook three squares a day for Tony. If we get a call and have to leave dinner, he'll shut the garage door for us and open it again when we get back.

ERIC WEBER, 37: Tony brightens every

day—there's a smile on his face. He teases us. He'll say, "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to send you to [another city]." If you've been out on a bad call, with Tony you can put your troubles on the back burner.

TONY TUMMINELLO: They're good cooks, but I don't like it when it's spicy. The guys are great. I love coming to the firehouse.

—CATHY FREE & CAITLIN KEATING

BREAKING NEWS

LANSING – Isabella Thomas is 6 years old - and a hero.

She claimed her 15 minutes of fame today, three weeks after she earned it by getting her family safely out of a house fire. The sturdy Lansing firefighters were on hand at her school to honor her at an 8 a.m. ceremony.

They described her as a hero. Classmates cheered – and not just because she was the reason they weren't yet in their classrooms at Immaculate Heart of Mary-St. Casimir School.

Lansing firefighters presented her with an official life-saving certificate and a pink firefighting helmet. She beamed.

With the cheers done and the crowd restless to ogle the fire trucks parked outside, the ceremony broke up. Isabella hugged her mom, handed off her hero gear and joined the herds of K-through-8 students heading upstairs to class or outside to the fire trucks.

To understand why firefighters surrounded the second-grader and held her out as an example of doing the right thing when it really mattered, flash back to the early morning of Aug. 18.

Isabella, her mother, Tamara, and little brother, Franklin were at home asleep between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m.

A basket of laundered clothes sat on the living room floor where Tamara Thomas had placed it before going to bed.

"I did my laundry, washed, it, dried it and brought the laundry basket upstairs (from the basement) around 9:15," she said.

"Around 11 o'clock, I noticed a strange smell in the house but I couldn't figure out where it was coming from. I didn't know if it was coming from outside, so I went to sleep."



Continued on next page

BREAKING NEWS

People can live their entire lives without witnessing spontaneous combustion. But it happens – and not just in movies. It was happening in the Thomas' living room and had been for hours.

Firefighters would report the "heat signature" of the floor under the laundry basket registered 170 degrees when they arrived. And they didn't arrive until smoke had filled the house and was billowing out the windows.

They did arrive, though, because Isabella woke up and did what Lansing firefighters encourage all of the students in all of the schools they visit to do when circumstances merit.

"It's dark," firefighter Steve Babcock recounted. "She smelled something burning. She immediately went and woke up mom and made sure mom and her little brother exited the home safely."

Lansing Fire Department recognized Isabella Thomas (6) Thursday during an award ceremony at Immaculate heart of Mary/ St. Casmir School in Lansing where she is second grader. Isabella recieved a Lifesaving Award from the fire department for alerting her family to get out of their house after she discovered a fire in the basement of her home. With Isabella are Steve Babcok (L) and Anthony Phillips of the fire department. Photo taken 9/4/2014 by Greg DeRuiter/Lansing State Journal (Photo: Greg DeRuiter, Greg DeRuiter)

Her mother called 911 at 2:40 a.m. to report her home was filled with smoke.

"Had Isabella decided to go back to sleep and not woken up her mom and her brother, the result very well could have been tragic," said Babcock. "We don't even want to think about it."

Battalion Chief Rob Hecksel wrapped up the recognition ceremony with another what-might-have-been reminder.

"I'd like to thank Isabella for making our job easier that night," he said. "Had she not awakened and if we'd shown up a couple of hours later for a full-blown structure fire, I can almost guarantee the result would have been tragic."

BREAKING NEWS

Above and beyond...Way to go.

A firefighter rescues a chicken from a fire in a chicken coop.



Lansing Firefighters get caught in the action of the Color Run in downtown Lansing! Sometimes making sure our citizens are safe can be a colorful experience!



Lansing Fire Department

History



The Lansing Fire Department averaged an alarm for assistance, every 28 minutes in 2014 and many times it is for our EMS services. LFD often sends an Engine Company along with the closest Medic unit, depending on the situation. This allows LFD to offer the highest level of care to our citizens and visitors.

However. . .



EMS responses are not something new for LFD. The first mention of establishing an "Inhalator Squad" was 1937 for persons who were experiencing difficulty in breathing. The equipment was on an Engine Company (one of the first of the first responders). By 1940, more than 80 members of LFD had training in Advanced First Aid, taught by the American Red Cross, and another 25 members were First Aid Instructors. This level of training was not required until 1969 for all ambulances operated in Michigan. In 1973, basic Emergency Medical Technician training began for LFD members and there were 3980 ambulance requests. These included 44 Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) runs of which 22 patients were revived.

The effort to upgrade the care given to victims of sudden illness or accidents in the Lansing area was started by Doctor John Wigenstein. He was the "Father" of the advanced EMS systems that we enjoy today.

On September 22, 1974, after exhaustive testing of 400 applicants for only 12 spots, 6 members of LFD began training in the first Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (Paramedic) course.

February 3, 1975 LFD members: Dave Abendroth, Lynn Bullard, Terry Nadeau, James Stampski, William Wilson, and Roy Zigler graduated as Paramedics. However, before the new medics could set out as Paramedics, they had to wait until Public Act 15 of 1975 became law, which was passed in a late night legislative session at the State Capitol.



Lansing Fire Department became the first fire based advanced life support transport emergency medical system in the State of Michigan. Many communities inside and outside of Michigan studied Lansing's Emergency Medical Service and in 1979, Michigan adopted statewide standards for paramedic services. Many of these standards are from the Tri County Emergency Medical Control Authority that we follow today.

Each year, since 1937, the runs continue to increase indicating the public's reliance on the Fire Department to provide advanced services. Equipment, procedures, and even the amount and types of drugs used in the field have changed but the mission to save lives and reduce suffering prevails. Today, the Lansing Fire Department is the largest fire based EMS Advanced Life Support service in the State of Michigan.



Providing EMS services to the community for over eighty years is another way that the Lansing Fire Department continues to serve the citizens and visitors to the Capital City.



Lansing Fire Department

Board of Commissioners

Yvonne Young McConnell
Chairperson
3rd Ward



Helen Keeney
Vice-Chair
2nd Ward



Betty Draher
1st Ward



Frank Ferro
At-Large



Jill Rhode
At-Large



Robert Brown Jr.
4th Ward



Tom Hoisington
At-Large



Rodney Singleton
At-Large

Lansing Fire Department

Fire Board

The City of Lansing Fire Board Commissioners was established by the City Charter of Lansing. The Fire Board Commissioners act as an advisory Board to the Mayor, Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chiefs, elected officials, and appointed officials.

The Fire Board Commissioners responsibilities:

- Establish Administrative Rules for Lansing Fire Department
- Approve rules and regulations of conduct for Lansing Fire Department Members
- Receive and resolve complaints
- Review and approve the Lansing Fire Department budget
- Acts as final authority of the City in imposing or reviewing discipline of the Lansing Fire Department employees consistent with State Laws.

Lansing Fire Department

Fire Board

Within any given 30 day time frame, Lansing Fire Department remains extremely busy with averaging over 1600 Incidents. Even with a progressive incident rate throughout the year, Lansing Fire Department continues to provide exemplary and timely service to the citizens of Lansing as well as our surrounding jurisdictions. Frequently, Lansing Fire Department personnel are called across jurisdictional lines to aid and assist other Fire Department's with fires, EMS, investigations, etc. Having other jurisdiction Fire Departments reaching out to our professional personnel places Lansing Fire Department in the lead for the onset of an anticipated regionalization effort. The Lansing Fire Board of Commissioners remains excited and continues to embrace the prodigious opportunity to amalgamate one Fire Chief (Chief Randy Talifarro) over two Fire Departments (Lansing and East Lansing) as the regionalization effort unfolds. Chief Talifarro is performing an outstanding job.

With a reduced staff and a firm budget, Lansing Fire Department still remains successful in their daily routines. Grants are consistently being sought in an effort to continue the exemplary service that the citizens of Lansing expect from the finest Fire Department on this side of the world! Notwithstanding, our community service reigns pristine while we continue to educate youth and adults on the importance of fire safety, having a fire escape plan (at home, work, and school), and providing an exemplary annual open house in which regional community citizens can participate and learn.

The Lansing Fire Board of Commissioners continues to assist with the development and presentation of the upcoming fiscal year's budget for submission to the Mayor, developing AOG's (administrative operating guidelines), strategically planning elimination of current budgetary concerns as presented, and seeking grant opportunities. Also, notably for 2014 the Lansing Fire Board Commissioners were involved in the interview process where over 125 applicants were interviewed and evaluated for Lansing Fire Department Firefighter and EMS positions

The Lansing Fire Board of Commissioners remains well pleased with the integrity, work, and dedication put forth through the personnel of the Lansing Fire Department. Each Fire Board Commissioner represents the City of Lansing Ward in which they reside or represent in an At-Large position within one of Lansing's four City wards. I stand very proud of each of our Commissioners, they are well worthy and should be recognized and commended for their dedication and work as Lansing Fire Board Commissioners.

Respectfully Submitted,
Yvonne Young McConnell, Chair
Lansing Fire Board of Commissioners



LANSING FIRE DEPARTMENT

BOX 23





BOX 23



Nancy Hepfer,
Chief



Gary Nobach,
Assistant Chief



Julie Chrysler,
Treasurer/Secretary



Eric Lynch,
Quartermaster



Craig Whitford,
Assistant Quartermaster



Tom Bouman



Tom Hernly



Bob Norris



Christine Norris



Tracy Oberst



Dave Rule



Bill Suska



Ralph Swan



Duane Vernon



Tim Whitford



BOX 23



The Box 23 Club was formally organized on December 11, 1937, the third anniversary of the Kerns Hotel fire. Its membership, which is limited to twenty-three people, pledges to support the Lansing Fire Department and to provide aid at fires when requested to do so by the Fire Department Officer in charge.



The goals of the Box 23 Club are to promote the interests of the Lansing Fire Department and be of service to the firefighters at the scene of emergencies. Members are called to the scene of multiple alarm fires and provide hot or cold beverages, depending upon the weather , dry gloves and doughnuts whenever possible to the firefighters.



The club has always tried to operate in a quiet manner not seeking any publicity for the club and its members. Even so on May 21, 1977 Mayor Gerald W. Graves deemed it fitting and proper to set aside and proclaim that day as "Box 23 Association Day" in Lansing and asked that all citizens of this community recognize the members of this extremely fine organization for the special service they render to the Lansing Fire Department.



BOX 23

Box 23 responded to eight (8) requests for assistance during 2014. We held two (2) dinners at an LFD fire station, one in February and one in October. These dinners are held to say thank you for the service the men and women of the LFD provides the citizens of Lansing. We also assisted the Prevention Division with the annual Fire Prevention Open House in October.

The members of Box 23 would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to the men and women of the Lansing Fire Department for their services in protecting the citizens of the City of Lansing and its visitors.

Julie Chrysler,

Chief of Box 23 (2015)

2014 RETIREES

Day Division Staff



Assistant Fire Chief
Trent Atkins



Fire Marshal
Brad Drury



Captain / EMS Coordinator
Monique Drury



Inspector
Roberta Fockler



Regional Planner
Barb Hamilton



Battalion Chief
Robert Hecksel

Battalion

Chiefs



Battalion Chief
Michael Marczynski

Suppression Personnel



Captain
Jeff Hanna



Captain
John Holly



Captain
Ward Meldrum



Captain
Margaret Murphy



Captain
Lyle Stampski



Lieutenant
Cynthia Flisnik



Engineer
Connie Summer

LFD Supports our Troops

